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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Yang Xu and §
Teresa Lechner-Fish §
§
SERIAL NO.: 09/538,455 §
§
FILED: October 9, 2001 §
§
FOR: Improved Stream §
Switching System §

GROUP ART UNIT: 5953700
EXAMINER: A. Chambers

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FEB 26 2002

5953700 MAIL ROOM

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 5, 2001

Att'y. Docket No. 1787-06001
Date: January 29, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is submitted as a response from the non-final rejection of independent claim 1, 9, and 13 dated April 9, 2001. Applicants request that the above-identified application be amended as follows:

In the claims:

Please add new claims 28-30.

Please amend claim 1 by replacement with rewritten claim 1 as follows. A marked-up version of the amended claim, showing the changes made by underlining of the added text and bracketing of the deleted text, is appended hereto.

1. (Amended) A stream switching system, comprising:

a stream switching housing having at least one common stream channel portion with a plurality of input ports and at least one output port;

tubing connected at least one of said output ports,

said tubing at least in part being a pre-heat coil suitable to heat a fluid sample traveling through said coil and to act as a flow restrictor for flow restriction of said fluid sample, the extent of said flow restriction sufficient to restrict said sample flow to about 50-70 cc/min.

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